REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 24, 26, and 32 have been amended.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102: The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, 14-18, 20-24, 26-29, 31-34, 36, and 38 under §102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,337,745 issued to Aiello. Aiello is directed to the routing of print jobs from various types of "source computers" to various types of printers. *See* Aiello, Abstract. Aiello's Fig. 5, reproduced below, helps to further illustrate.

FIG. 5
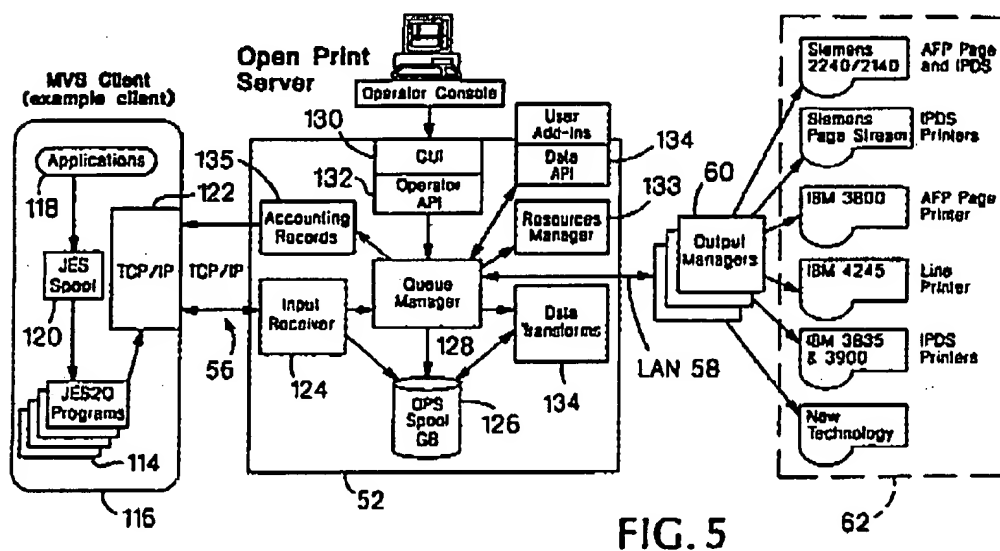
Aiello's system includes a source computer (116) (labeled MVS Client), an open print server (52) output managers (60) and printers (62). A user interacts with the system through application (118) on source computer (116) and ultimately interacts with one of printers (62) via programs running on open print server (52). "The open print server receives print jobs from the source computers and efficiently routes the jobs over a local area network (LAN) 58 to various output managers 60. The output

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PAGE 13/19 * RCVD AT 6/16/2005 12:36:10 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:208 433 9295 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-52

managers then have the jobs printed on directly connected printers 62." Aiello. col. 3, lines 50-54.

Print jobs from applications (118) are stored in JES spool (120) on a source computer (116). A JES2Q program (114) operating on a source computer (116) act on print jobs in JES spool (120) that are destined for the open print server (52). The JES2Q program (114) breaks those print jobs into TCP packets to be transferred to the open print server (52). *See* Aiello, col. 4, lines 40-65.

The following is taken from Aiello, col. 4, line 66 through col. 5, line 32. The input receiver (124) operating on open print server (52) receives print jobs from source computer (116) and writes the data to a spool (126). Queue manager (128) controls the distribution of print jobs across the printers (62). provides a print operator with graphical user interfaces that show "a current view of the printing environment." Aiello, col. 5, lines 17-25. The Queue manager (128) processes commands received from the print operator through those interfaces to take appropriate actions.

Aiello provides little direct insight regarding the print operator. Fig 5 illustrates an operator consol that is in communication with open print server (52). The operator console is plainly distinct from source computers (116). A print operator must then be an individual controlling the operator console. Consequently, the graphical interfaces provided by queue manager (128) are ultimately displayed for the benefit of the print operator by the operator console. The print operator interacts with the user interfaces so that commands can be sent back to the open print server (52).

Aiello, Fig. 6, reproduced below, provides an example of a graphical interface (140) displayed on the operator console.
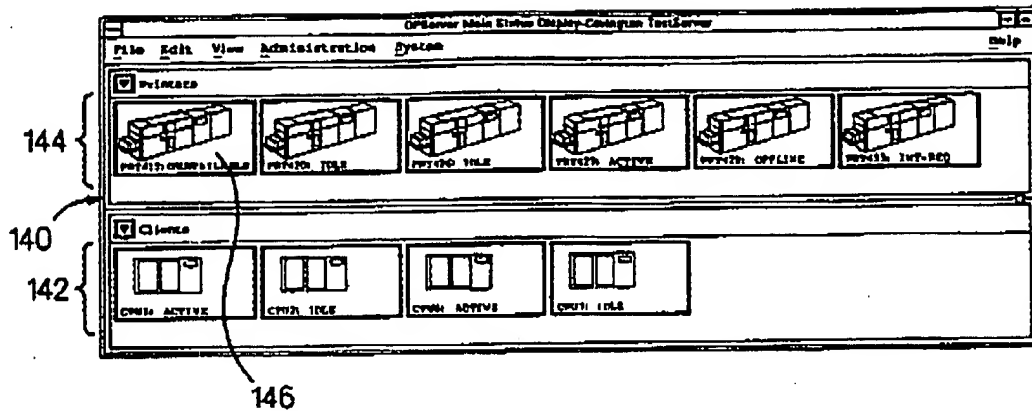
FIG.6

Each printer icon (144) corresponds to and indicates a status of a particular printer (62). Each client icon (142) corresponds to and indicates a status of a source computer (116). Selection of a given icon, allows the print operator to obtain additional information or to issue a command regarding an associated printer (62) or source computer (116). *See* Aiello, col. 6, line 64 through col. 7, line 23. As can be seen in Fig. 9, the print operator can also select the view pull down menu from interface 140 to cause a job queue status table (160) to be displayed.
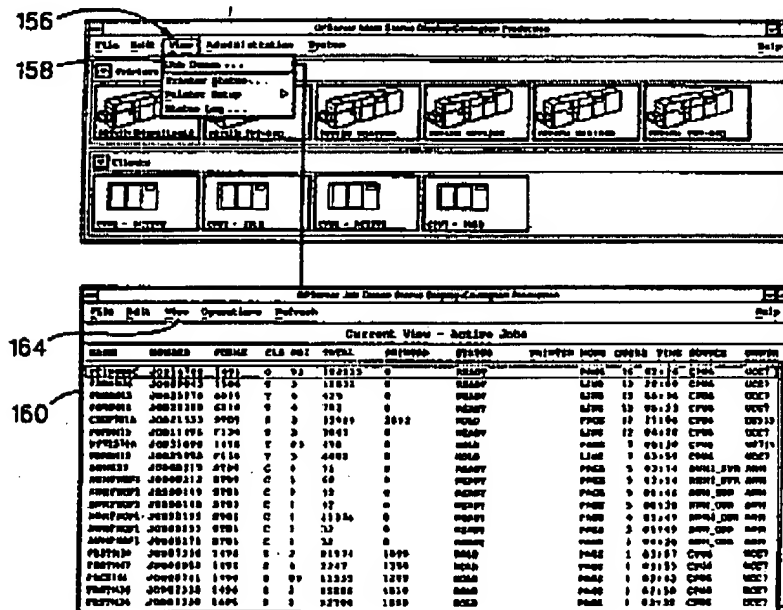

FIG.9

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Following the Aiello's teachings. once a print job leaves a source computer (116), the operator of the source computer has no further control of that print job. Instead, that control is transferred to a print manager through graphical interfaces presented on an operator console.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment and recites the following acts:

1. placing production data received from a client in a queue, the production data including production options for a target document identified by the client;
2. generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data held in the queue, the production data to be delivered to a production device;
3. presenting the queue interface to the client;
4. generating a status interface for the production device; and
5. presenting the status interface to the client.

Claim 1 includes one or more acts not taught by Aiello. In short Claim 1 requires the presentation of a queue interface and a status interface to the same client from which production data was received and a target document identified. Aiello does not teach or suggest this. No interfaces are returned to Aiello's source computers (116) from which print jobs originate. Instead, Aiello teaches that a print operator through an operator console can manually retrieve a job queue status table (160). The operator console is not a client.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Aiello as are Claims 2-7 which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 8 is directed to a method for mediating access to production devices and recites the following acts:

1. acquiring an access request for a production device, the access request
   originating from a client;
2. presenting to the client a production interface for the production device, the
   interface having user accessible controls for selecting production data;
3. placing in a queue production data received from the client and selected
   through the production interface;
4. generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing
   the production data in the queue;
5. presenting the queue interface to the client;
6. generating a status interface for the production device; and
7. presenting the status interface to the client.

Again, Aiello does not teach or suggest presenting a queue interface and a status
interface to the same client from which production data was received. Aiello only
teaches providing user interfaces to an operator console.

Moreover, Aiello does not teach presenting to the client a production interface
for the production device where the interface includes user accessible controls for
selecting production data. The Examiner mistakenly contends that this act is taught
by Aiello, col. 5, lines 46-47 which states: "using the GUI, a print operator selects a
job in the server spool and directs the job to a specific printer." First of all, Aiello's
GUI is not presented to a client as required by Claim 8 – it is presented to an
operator console for an open print server (52). Second, Aiello's GUI is a queue
interface and not a production interface as it does not include controls for selecting
production data. The selection of a print job in Aiello's queue cannot be equated
with the selection of production data. Claim 8 clearly requires the presentation of a
production interface and queue interface. The two interfaces are distinct.
Production data selected through the production interface is placed in the queue. A
queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the production data in
the queue is presented to the client. The production interface is clearly not a queue
interface.

For at least these reasons, Claim 8 is patentable over Aiello as are Claims 9-
13 which depend from Claim 8.

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Claim 14 is directed to a computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 distinguishes over Aiello, so do Claim 14 and Claims 15-19 which depend from Claim 14.

Claim 20 is directed to a computer program product for mediating access to production devices. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 distinguishes over Wood, so do Claim 20 and Claims 21-25 which depend from Claim 20.

Claim 26 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites elements for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 distinguishes over Aiello, so do Claim 26 and Claims 27-31 which depend from Claim 26.

Claim 32 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites the following elements for implementing the method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 distinguishes over Aiello, so do Claim 32 and Claims 33-38 which depend from Claim 32.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 7, 9, 13, 19, 25, 30, 35, and 37 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiello in view of US Pub 2003/0005097 to Barnard.

Claims 3 and 7 depend from Claim 1 and include all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claims 3 and 7.

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Claims 9 and 13 depend from Claim 8 and include all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so are Claims 9 and 13.

Claim 19 depends from Claim 14 and include all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 14 is patentable, so is Claim 19.
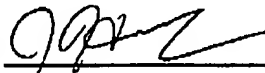
Claim 25 depends from Claim 20 and include all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 20 is patentable, so is Claim 25.

Claim 30 depends from Claim 26 and include all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 26 is patentable, so is Claim 30.

Claims 35 and 37 depend from Claim 32 and include all the limitations of that base Claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 32 is patentable, so are Claims 35 and 37.

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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